

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In an information recording apparatus for recording first information for subsequent playback by a playback apparatus, a method for recording comprising: receiving said first information; recording said first information to a user area on a recording medium; generating second information, said second information not intended for playback by said playback apparatus, said second information comprising playback enabling information and additional information, said playback enabling information being the minimum required information to enable said playback apparatus to playback said first information from said recording medium; and recording said second information on said recording medium, said recording second information including a first recording mode comprising recording said playback enabling information and recording said additional information on said recording medium, said recording second information including a second recording mode comprising recording said playback enabling information on said recording medium exclusive of said additional information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said recording second information further includes a third recording mode comprising detecting the presence of previously recorded playback enabling information and recording said additional information if previously recorded playback enabling information is detected on said recording medium.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said first recording mode includes recording said additional information to a boundary zone of said recording medium.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said playback enabling information is file management information.

5. A method for recording information on a recording medium comprising: receiving a recording medium having user-provided information recorded thereon in a user area; and performing a first finalizing step including generating file management information and recording said file management information to an area on said recording

medium other than said user area, said performing a first finalizing step exclusive of recording any information to a boundary zone on said recording medium, wherein said recording medium contains file management information, absent any information in said boundary zone, and can be played back on a playback apparatus.

6. The method of claim 5 further including performing a second finalizing step including generating said file management information, recording said file management information to a first area on said recording medium other than said user area, and recording predetermined information to a second area other than said user area.

7. The method of claim 5 further including receiving a user-provided input to record predetermined information to said boundary zone.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein said performing a finalizing step further includes detecting the presence of previously recorded file management information and presenting information indicative of whether previously recorded file management information has been detected and receiving user-provided input to record predetermined information to said boundary zone.

9. Apparatus for recording information on a recording medium comprising:

a write head operable to record information onto an area of said recording medium;

a first controller portion operative with said write head and configured to operate said write head to record first information to a user area of said recording medium;

a second controller portion operative with said write head and configured to operate said write head to record second information to an area of said recording medium other than said user area;

a third controller portion operative with said write head and configured to operate said write head to record third information in a boundary zone; and

a fourth controller portion operative with said second and third controller portions and configured to select between a first operation of activating said second controller portion exclusive of said third controller portion and a second operation of activating both said second controller portion and said third controller portion,

16 said second information representative of minimum essential information that
17 enables a playback apparatus to play back said first information,
18 wherein when said fourth controller portion selects said first operation, said
19 recording medium has contained thereon said second information exclusive of said third
20 information and is able to be played back on said playback device.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said second information is written to
2 a management information zone.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said second information is file
2 management information.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said fourth controller portion is
2 further configured to detect whether said recording medium contains previously recorded
3 second information and if previously recorded second information is detected, then activating
4 said third controller portion exclusive of said second controller portion.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 9 further including a control circuit comprising
2 a memory, said first controller portion comprising first program code stored in said memory,
3 said second controller portion comprising second program code stored in said memory, said
4 third controller portion comprising third program code stored in said memory.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 9 further including a user-display portion
2 configured to exchange information with a user to obtain user-input representing whether to
3 select said first operation or said second operation.

1 15. An information recording apparatus comprising:
2 a driver for recording information to a recording medium;
3 a control circuit coupled to said driver to record user-provided information to
4 said recording medium; and
5 a finalizing circuit coupled to said driver to record finalizing information to
6 said recording medium,
7 said finalizing circuit configured to produce first finalizing information
8 representative of minimum essential information to enable a playback apparatus to play back
9 said user-provided information from said recording medium,

10 said finalizing circuit further configured to produce second finalizing
11 information suitable for being written to a boundary zone of said recording medium,
12 said finalizing circuit operable to write said first finalizing information on said
13 recording medium without writing said second finalizing information on said recording
14 medium so that said recording medium can be played back in said playback device having
15 only said first information contained thereon.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15 further including a user-display portion
2 configured to exchange information with a user to obtain user-input representing whether to
3 select said first operation or said second operation, said finalizing circuit further operable to
4 detect previously written first finalizing information on said recording medium, said user-
5 display configured to display information indicative of whether said previously written first
6 finalizing information has been detected.

7 17. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said first finalizing information is
8 file management information.

9 18. In an apparatus for recording information on a recording medium, a
10 user interface presented on a display comprising:

11 a first information element indicative of a finalized state of said recording
12 medium; and

13 a second information element indicative of a selection to perform a first
14 finalization operation or a second finalization operation,

15 said first finalization operation being an operation wherein first information is
16 recorded in a first area on said recording medium exclusive of a boundary zone area of said
17 recording medium,

18 said second finalization operation being an operation wherein first information
19 is recorded in said first area and second information is recorded in said boundary zone area.

20 19. The apparatus of claim 18 further including a third information
21 element indicative of whether said recording medium contains previously recorded first
22 information.

23 20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said first information is file
24 management information.

1 21. An information-recording apparatus for recording information on a
2 recording medium from which a playback apparatus can reproduce the information recorded
3 thereon comprising:

4 means for recording information on said information-recording medium;

5 means for executing a record-on-medium ending process by which said
6 information-recording medium is processed so as to be replayable by said playback
7 apparatus; and

8 means for controlling said information-recording apparatus,

9 said means for executing said record-on-medium ending process comprising:

10 first means for writing minimal information required for said playback
11 apparatus when performing playback processing on said information-recording medium; and

12 second means for writing additional information,

13 said means for executing said record-on-medium ending process being
14 operable to execute said first means exclusively of said second means, wherein only said
15 minimal information is written on said information-recording medium.

16 22. The apparatus of claim 21 further including means for detecting
17 previously recorded minimal information and for executing said second means upon
18 detecting previously recorded minimal information.